



## **MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2019**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- Mother Nature provided a very mild December, apart from one day below 28 degrees that forced us to close shellfishing.
- On December 1, Duck Creek opened to commercial shellfishing with a small triangle behind Mac's Shack closed due to contamination from the outfall pipe there. This is marked with candy-striped poles, and all in the industry were informed.
- A flag system was created with a candy-striped pole at the end of the pier to indicate when the Shirttail Point area below the rocks under the Harbormasters is closed to shellfishing. This happens when there are more than 10 boats out front and at L-Pier.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 121 bushels of oysters, more than 33 bushels of quahogs, more than 360 bushels of bay scallops, and more than 117 bushels of blood clams, as tracked on commercial patrol.
- More than 5 bushels of quahogs and 15 bushels of oysters were harvested in the recreational fishery, as best as we were able to capture while on commercial patrol.
- 2020 commercial and recreational shellfishing permits went on sale on December 2. During the month 82 commercial and 113 recreational shellfishing permits were sold, totaling \$23,324.

### **Enforcement**

- We finished all but one grant inspection.
- We continued inspecting boats for limit adherence and found no problems.
- We received a complaint about an improperly parked vehicle at a Duck Creek landing. We spoke to the fisherman and all was resolved positively.
- We updated the overwintering regulations and added in the new overwintering contract to the regulations and got them posted online and around town as per regs.
- We have been monitoring grant holder progress in getting gear off and many already have. We received eight completed overwintering agreements.
- A handful of grant holders left messages informing us about working at night to get gear off. Not only is this greatly appreciated, it is a regulation.
- We held a meeting with two grant holders to resolve a dispute and had lengthy conversations with two others about a transfer. We corresponded with the Selectboard about town regulations regarding two other grant issues that had been brought to their attention.
- We held a first-time, commercial permit holders' orientation to go over town, state and federal regulations involved in the oversight of commercial shellfishing.
- We sent out a mailing to all grant holders informing them of a new annual grant report form and that grant fees would be due on Feb. 28 of each year together with the previous year's grant report.

### **State and Town Relations**

- Assistant Constable Johnny Clam Mankevetch and Deputy Constable Chris Manulla were re-appointed by the Selectboard for another three-year term each.
- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta attended a Selectboard meeting, Wastewater Committee meeting, a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting and an Expedition Blue meeting.
- Mankevetch conducted water quality testing with the state during a snow squall!
- Manulla oversaw boat repairs to our Carolina skiff.
- Manulla and our AmeriCorps member put up new signage around the harbor and replaced deteriorating and missing signage.
- Mankevetch and Manulla attended the winter Mass. Shellfish Officers Assn. meeting.
- We submitted an interim report to nonprofit Wellfleet SPAT re: our implementation of the recreational fishery grant they awarded to the department. Civetta discussed it at a Selectboard meeting.

### **Propagation**

- Mankevetch led our many efforts to consolidate operations on the propagation bed. We moved a lot of gear off and continued distributing oysters in the harbor with the additional help of our AmeriCorps member.
- Mankevetch worked with Bay Sails Marine to get our barge out of the water. It was cleaned, and it will be stored on pier for the winter.

### **Education and Public Relations**

- One commercial Town Shellfish Crier was distributed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable